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the Martlet

Volume XXXV Number FFF •The student newspaper of the University of Victoria• Thursday, July XX MCMXCV

Sprites and knights transform harbour

by Ian Matthews

Victoria Shakespeare Festival, Inner Harbour until July 30

There is something to be said for theatre in a big tent, especially when the big tent is wharf-side in Victoria's inner harbour.

The setting for this city's long awaited inaugural Summer Shakespeare Festival is nothing short of majestic. The smell of sea-air and popcorn, the cacophony of buskers and buses, children wailing, the full moon looming over the Empress hotel, all these elements combine to provide a naturally festive atmosphere. Add to this the promise of two highly touted Shakespeare productions (assuming you're a fan of the Bard) and one's mind dances with the prospect of something magical.

But, alas, the venue is the chief strength of this festival.

With events like Vancouver's highly successful Bard on the Beach setting the precedent, a similar festival in Victoria was seemingly only a matter of time. Of course, envisioning these kinds of events is easy; making them happen is nothing less than a lot of hard work and dedication. For this reason alone the festival organizers, Ian Case in particular, deserve accolades.

Unfortunately, the scale of this project is finally reflected in its finished, or dare I say unfinished, product. Two plays were mounted on opening night, July 11, but just barely.

Beginning at 6:30 PM, the show was projected to run about four hours. Come 11:40 PM, theatre patrons—those willing to tough it out—were shifting on numb bums and waiting out the final scenes of a plodding Richard the Third.

The two productions, taken together, represent a study in contrast: the light-hearted comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and the dark drama, Richard III, the populist piece and the critical masterpiece. While one production suffers from a dearth of talent, the other suffers from a dearth of rehearsal time. And both plays suffered from the general calamity of opening night.

Of the two performances, A Midsummer Night's Dream is the most entertaining, although its cast is the least experienced of the two. However, Clayton Jevne, of Theatre Inconnu, has again proven that he has a particular penchant for adapting Shakespeare to a modern audience, regardless of his materials.

Jevne makes the very most of his green troupe by pushing them to be physical. His "gesture theatre" works well here. The play is personified to the point where, were it in gibberish, one would still be able to follow the story. Jevne's gestures work as a kind of closed captioning for the audience in a performance where every third sentence is virtually inaudible.

There are some memorable performances, among them Laurel Adam's frenzied Puck, also a dripping and pathetic Helena as played by Miranda Duffy, and Michael Macdonald's big, distempered, but surprisingly light fairy, Oberon. Nancy Ford's send-up of Bottom is also quite hilarious at times, stopping just short of overkill in the play within the play.

In contrast, Richard, with its cast of notable thespians—including Case, Paul Terry, Tim Crofton, Antoinette Church, and others—is nothing more than a disappointment. Tariq Leslie's direction seems at times to be a study in still images: players, positioned like models, spouting endless dialogue—most of which is sucked into space before reaching the ears of the audience.

The pacing of this performance is slothful. There is perceptible dead space between virtually every line. The actors—aside from struggling for their lines—appeared for the most part to be cut adrift, unsure what to do, even bored and distracted at times. In short, the opening night's performance was a rehearsal.

If its organizers hope to make the Victoria Shakespeare Festival a permanent thing, the quality of the product will have to improve. But, for the present, the idea and the venue itself are enough to get good-spirited patrons out to see a play. The fest seems destined to succeed in spite of itself. ❑

The Victoria Shakespeare Festival continues through July 30. For show times and tickets phone: 386-6121. Tickets: $12 General; $10 Students, Seniors and Military; $5 under 12 years.

"The temple haunting Martlet does approve"

-Macbeth, Act I, scene 6

ARTS

CFUV Hails Hippest Bands

by Lisa Gugliemi

Full Dynamic Range
CFUV compilation
1995

CFUV, Vancouver Island's non-profit, non-commercial, community-based radio station is celebrating its 10th birthday this year. The station released *Full Dynamic Range* in honor of the occasion.

This CD contains 13 of Victoria's hippest, psychedelic, pop-rock bands, starting with Dixie Co.

Most of the songs on this disc are fast-paced and show a refreshing side to Victoria's music scene.

"Tater Gem" by The Papillomas has interesting lyrics like "My dad likes to fry venison with his shirt off. Grease spatters on his nipples, it burns his nipples."

"88", by Victoria's favorite funksters, Loose, often sounds very similar to Rage Against the Machine , with the singer belting out short, quick phrases to a funky rhythm.

Loose's other song on the CD, "Hittin'' the Do", starts off with a Dukes of Hazard chase scene guitar sound. The song then goes into a folky, if not country, tune that sounds like it could be background music for the Calgary Stampede.

There is a wide range of sound included in the compilation to please listeners. A spoken word piece done by Kinnie Starr asks an unnamed person why she has a negative outlook on life.

Starr uses different pitches and undulates her vocal chords to get across the message that the person is beautiful and shouldn't be so negative.

"No Blue Apples" by the Lovebabies has an eerie melody accompanied by Jen Clark's riveting vocals. Clark has a large vocal range and she exercises it in this song.

A couple of songs by Sunyata have a Latin American flavour with flourishing guitars and bongo sounds.

CFUV has consistently helped with the growth of the Victoria music scene and *Full Dynamic Range* sure marks its progress after 10 years.❑

Band Rocks Westward

by Mike Chilton

SomebodySpoke
Hardship Post
Sub Pop
1995

Every time they have a new release, Newfoundland's trio Hardship Post moves further west.

After their first release, a six-song tape called Mood Ring, in late 1992 they signed to Sloan's label, Murderecords, and based themselves in Nova Scotia.

Now, after almost two years of waiting the heir apparents to Sloan's crown as Canadian "Grunge Kings" have come out with their first full-length CD entitled Somebody Spoke.

The difference this time is that the group has signed to Sub Pop Records, the label which has also signed Jale and Eric's Trip.

They have also made a second move, this time to Toronto, to base themselves out of Sub Pop's Canadian headquarters. Perhaps the next release will see Hardship Post move to Vancouver?

Now that we all know the history of the band, that brings us to the CD itself.

The bad reception Somebody Spoke got was definitely not because of bad musicianship. Hardship Post's musical style is energetic and fun: slick instrumentation and equally intense vocals that sound genuine and unforced.

Song styles range from the 60's pop influence of "Watchin' You" to the simple, poetic ballads such as "Your Sunshine", and "Just for Little".

Even though *Somebody Spoke* lacks the hard edge that the *Hack EP* displayed in abundance, it is more of an eclectic rock stew than past releases.

Standouts on Somebody Spoke include the danceable "Garbagetruck", and the song on the album which is destined to become a mosh-pit favourite, the second version of "What a Day".

Here's hoping that if the "Posties" can't get back into the studio again sometime soon, at least they'll tour western Canada soon as an alternative way for their fans to get more.

News out of Sub Pop has it that Hardship Post will be playing with Six Finger Sattelite and Vancouver's Zumpano July 24 in Vancouver and July 26 in Seattle...I'm there, dude!❑

Local Artists Evoke Spirit of Emily Carr

by Jenny Durrant

Emily Carr Exhibition
People's Gallery
until July 30

The spirit of Emily Carr lives on in the newly-established People's Gallery at the Carr House on Government Street.

For Pam Dean, Tillie Shuster and Jan Ross, who run the popular Heritage Site, the People's Gallery is a welcomed addition. "Emily always wanted ordinary people to be able to hang their art in her home," says Ross.

Local artists Dale Ketcheson and Diana Lunde have their art gracing the walls of the Carr House until the end of July. Both women's art is full of class and merit.

Ketcheson has works in both oil and watercolour. Her soft flowers and winding paths evoke the same feeling as Carr's art. "She paints in the spirit of Emily," says Ross. "She works in the same physical landscape and there's a sense that she [Ketcheson] sees the neighbourhood in the same way."

Lunde's pastel impressions of historical photographs are a haunting and dark contrast to Ketcheson's works. She layers pastel, then scrapes through the layers to achieve an appealing dark/light contrast.

In August another local artist, Robert Amos, will be painting in the backyard of the Carr House. He's working on "In the neighbourhood of Emily", a collection of paintings of all the houses associated with Carr.❑

Hero Exposed

By James Murton

The Catcher Was a Spy: The Mysterious Life of Moe Berg
Nicholas Dawidoff
New York: Vintage Books
1995

In American myth, there is no-one so common as the classic American hero. A poor boy from a humble background who makes good through hard work and determination.

The Catcher Was a Spy is the story of Moe Berg, baseball player, intellectual, and spy. Unlike most American heroes, Berg was never determined to accomplish anything in the traditional sense, and never satisfied with what he did accomplish. Berg's pronounced lack of self-esteem led him to an end that was perhaps tragic, perhaps merely pathetic.

"Professor Berg," as sports writers dubbed him, reportedly knew a number of languages, from French to Japanese to Sanskrit. He could supply the derivation of words on command, held degrees from Princeton and Columbia Law school, and supposedly met everyone from Babe Ruth to Albert Einstein.

But despite his intellect, Berg never became the linguist or lawyer he could have been. Why not? We will never know for sure, because Berg deliberately spun a web of mystery around himself.

Berg often disappeared unexpectedly - in 1930, the White Sox placed a notice in the Chicago Tribune asking for his whereabouts. He was given to inexplicable behaviour, such as refusing to acknowledge people he knew well when meeting them on the street. Except for a collection of stories he regularly pulled out and polished up in his later years, Berg refused to talk much about himself.

This book exposes the real Moe Berg. Dawidoff's exhaustive research includes archival records, private collections of letters and memorabilia, and several hundred interviews. The result is an authoritative and detailed account of Berg's life.

Dawidoff tells this tale with great effect. His clear, concise journalistic style keeps the narrative moving. He has a gift for short, vivid encapsulations of people, such as German physicist Werner Heisenberg: "Heisenberg, a short man of freckled, boyish mien, who played the piano beautifully, doted on his children, and kept photographs of scientific friends on his desk, was the greatest theoretical physicist in the world."

Dawidoff is a sure-footed guide through the maze of Berg's life, telling us confidently what did and did not really happen, and what likely motivated Berg in his mysterious actions. Just as important, he is not afraid to tell us when he doesn't know something.

The Catcher Was a Spy is an entertaining, smoothly written tale of a fascinatingly weird character. Most people "acquire a spouse, children, a home, furniture, an automobile, or an album full of vacation snapshots.", Berg acquired experiences. The questions of why he so stubbornly stuck to this path, and whether as a result his is a story of success or failure, is the real fascination of this book. ❑

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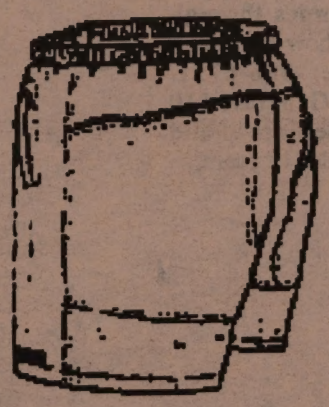
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Ox shows natural strength on stage

by Sarah Gorlewski

Ox
Harpo's
July 13

There's a difference between rock that is "hard" because of the intensity of the performance, and rock that is "hard" because the band is not talented enough to do more than jump around making a lot of noise. Ox belongs in the former category.

The band's original name was Seeking the Ox, in reference to the first stage in the Buddhist quest for personal strength. The shortened name reflects the obvious strength the band now possesses. Ox performs with confidence, concentrating their energy on their music, instead of crowd-pleasing antics.

Ox now plans to focus on putting out their first CD. "Performing live is fun, but a CD is necessary to promote the music", said Andrew Mann, lead vocalist.

Guitarist Ross Nanton agreed. "What is anti-commercialism? The greatest compliment would be to have as many people as possible listen to our music."

Ox performs with confidence, concentrating their energy on their music...

But Ox is not about to sell out. "We play what we like to play," said Mann. The band writes their songs together, and bases the lyrics on personal experiences. Drummer Luke Armich performs in pyjama bottoms "because they're light and comfortable".

Ox enjoy their gig at Harpo's Thursday night

photo by Paul Nanton

Ox started recording their CD September 1, and are hoping for a late-October release. They will be doing most of their live performances until then in Vancouver, because "there is controversy over the stability of the music scene here," said Nanton. They will be in Victoria August 20 to compete in the semi-finals of the Battle of the Bands at Wasteland.

Many mainstream hard-rock bands attempt to show their power by roaring like monster trucks, but Ox shows the natural strength of the beast they are named after.❑

Smash hit *Irma Vep* plays The Planet

by Ian Matthews

The Mystery of Irma Vep
Planet Theatre
August 3-19

Like many of its kooky characters, last season's "two-hand smash" hit *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, is being brought back to life. The play is a spoof on gothic melodrama.

In its first incarnation, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* was performed at Langham Court Theatre and sold out within three days of opening. The production's two stars, Paul Terry and Tim Crofton, had so much fun they've decided to have another go — this time at The Planet Theatre, under the cover of their new company: Blackguard (Blaggard) Theatre Productions.

"There were so many people who missed the show last time," said Crofton, "and Paul and I love the script so much, that it didn't take much to persuade us to have another bash at it.

Adrian Chamberlain of the *Times Colonist* described Terry and Crofton's performances as "the best live comedy performances in years". Rona Murray of *Monday Magazine* described the highjinks of the goofy vampires, hunchbacks, mummies, werewolves, and impassioned Egyptologists as "an absolute romp".

While the show will be based on The Victoria Theatre Guild's production, there will be some changes. Original director Matthew Bissett is working with Terry and Crofton on polishing the new production and reworking some of the old gags.

The play is a spoof on gothic melodrama.

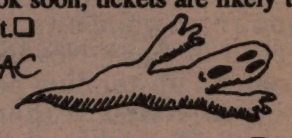
"It has to be different," said Terry, "we saw no point in completely reproducing something we have already done. The set will see the biggest changes. It will be much simpler. Local set painter Paul Dishaw will be creating a more cartoon-like world, that will lend itself to *Irma Vep*'s campy, spoofy, melodramatic-style."

Terry added "we have taken many of the gags from the old show and expanded them. There will be that extra element of the "inside joke" for those people who have seen the show before, and know how the joke worked the first time. We have also localized the show somewhat, so there are gags that only Victorians will understand."

If *Irma Vep* is successful this time round, both Terry and Crofton hope that their good exposure will help to put The Planet Theatre well and truly on the map.

"The Planet is a fantastic new performance space," glowed Crofton, "particularly for the plethora of new, small companies like ours that can't afford to rent the MacPherson or Kaleidoscope Playhouses. I hope we can introduce hordes of new people to The Eaton Centre's groovy, hip, new theatre."

If you're looking for a way to beat the blues, or if you just want to laugh until your belly aches, get down to *The Mystery of Irma Vep* at The Planet — Victoria's newest theatre, on the fourth floor of The Eaton Centre. Make sure you book soon, tickets are likely to go fast.❑



Choir fills demand for depth in popular music

by Dane Gibson

Bourbon Tabernacle Choir
Harpo's
July 20

Let's start a band. All we need is a guitar, a bass guitar and a set of drums. Nobody can sing? Who cares.

Though there is still a demand for the four chord grunge sound, lately there seems to be a shift to music that delivers more.

Enter the Bourbon Tabernacle Choir. The band has been touring together for five years, a tribute to their commitment to each other and their music.

The seven members have kept their integrity intact, and prefer to play their own brand of groove rather than conform to industry demands.

"The advances of record companies are encouraging but also a nightmare, they often distract you from what you've set out to do musically," said Chris Brown, a key member of the group. "You have to keep your nerve up and be willing to work, but not by their standards."

The band delivers a potpourri of sounds that is as fun as it is amazing. Brown plays the organ, clarinet, piano, trombone, and sousaphone. He considers the ability to use different instruments a way of keeping the music interesting.

"We are an anomaly in many ways," said Brown, "We draw from gospel, blues, and funk, which facilitates our individuality in Canada."

Their ability to improvise on stage comes from playing together for so long, and being such good friends. Through it all they remain committed to the band.

"The band is it, if we play with others it's to clear our heads and learn," said Brown.

Brown, whose father recently passed away, wrote a song called 'Simple' and dedicated it to him. It appears on their latest c.d. '*Shy Folk*'.

"I'm lucky to have an entity that exists where I can make a personal connection. Writing it [Simple] was one process and performing it is another, both are worthwhile and healing," said Brown.

With the recent success of Blues Traveler and The Dave Mathews Band, the market for depth in popular music seems to be growing. The inevitable result of a more demanding audience is that The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir may finally achieve the recognition they deserve.

The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir plays Harpo's July 20.❑

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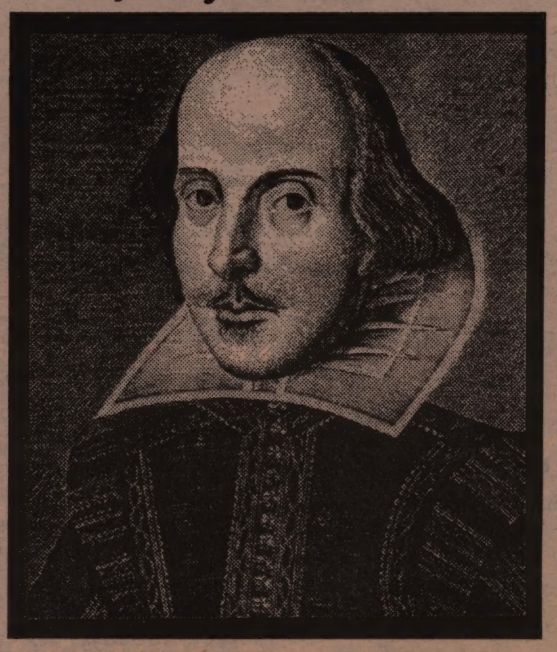
July 11 - 30



Call 286-6121 for info

EDITORIAL

Dial "F" for ... Frustration

A tinny, overly friendly computer-generated voice speaks on the other end of the line: "...The class you requested...English 120..is full...Please enter next request or 9 to end this call...", or in the better case: "All circuits are busy, please try your call again later" (Maybe just as annoying, but at least it gives you hope.)

Sound familiar? Unfortunately for most of us it does.

It's the time of year when university students should be enjoying the sunny off-time, or studying hard for summer exams.

Instead, many are stressed out and at the end of their rope because telephone registration time is upon us.

Whoever was the genius who decided we would just love dialing and redialing our phones only to find that all the courses we need are full or wait-listed was obviously never a student here.

To be told that you can't register for a class YOU NEED IN ORDER TO GRADUATE because you got a registration date that's so late in the schedule does not seem justified.

What happened to equal education for all?

When using the TREG system, you gradually lose all the rationality and common sense which got you successfully through previous years of classes.

After a few minutes of "full course" announcements you become convinced that there is an evil little monster at the other end of the line.

It's time to recall all the fairy godmothers from your childhood stories. You beg their forgiveness for abandoning them upon entering University and plead for them to do something to help you.

After realizing there just isn't a fairy godmother to help, you face facts. Either you are going to have to change those Engineer or English professor career plans you've dreamed of all your life and become yet another undeclared university statistic OR you are going to have to rock the boat.

Deciding that TREG cannot be the only option, you decide to go to the registration office. You begin to whine to a weary-looking receptionist about the fact that you need to get into this class or that there might be drastic results. He or she shrugs and says: "Okay, we'll put you on the waiting list."

That and fifty cents will buy you a coffee.

Wait lists are another invention from hell. They assign you a number with the attitude: "Well, you're on your own, now. It's your problem if you get in or not." Not the type of attitude you expect from an upstanding post-secondary institution.

Wait-listed students must show up to every course (something a student who is serious about his/her education should be doing, anyway). So you sit in class and fret about whether you will still be there two weeks later. This worrying distracts you from what the professor twenty rows down in front of the class is teaching.

"Should I buy the textbooks?" you wonder.

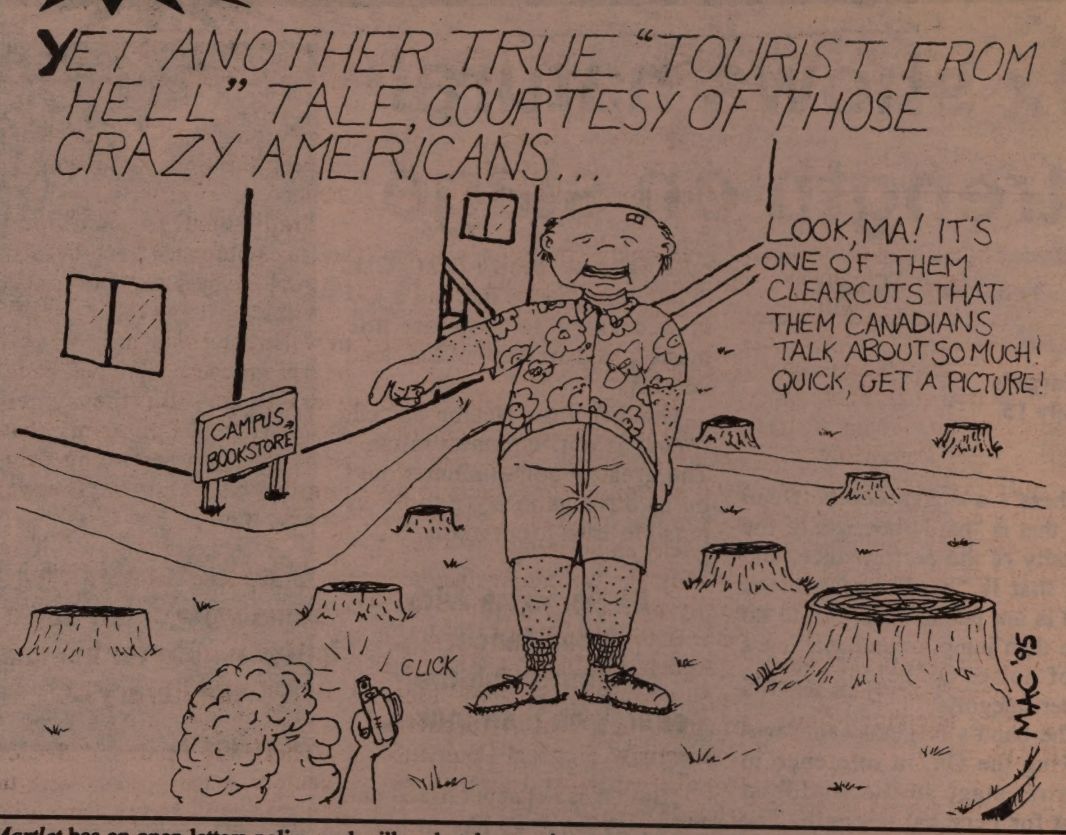
A couple of weeks later (if you're lucky), you find you are in the class, something that should have been established from the start to avoid unnecessary stress.

There isn't a single student at UVic who hasn't been affected and frustrated by TREG. We hope the university gives some serious thought to finding an acceptable alternative to this system.

If all alternative "courses" are "full at the moment," we will try our call for change again later.

This is a recording from the Martlet exchange....❑

Editorial topics are decided by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 4 pm in the Martlet *SUB 108. Editorials are written by one or more staff members; opinions are not necessarily those of all staff.*


YET ANOTHER TRUE "TOURIST FROM HELL" TALE, COURTESY OF THOSE CRAZY AMERICANS...
LOOK, MA! IT'S ONE OF THEM CLEARCUTS THAT THEM CANADIANS TALK ABOUT SO MUCH! QUICK, GET A PICTURE!
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The *Martlet* has an open letters policy and will undertake to print every letter received from members of the university community, with priority to UVic undergraduate students. Letters must be **TYPEWRITTEN** (you can use *Martlet* computers), submitted on disk, or e-mailed and include your name and phone number for verification. **LETTERS MUST BE 200 WORDS MAXIMUM.** Letters will be reviewed for libel at the Martlet editorial meeting, 4pm on the week of publication. Deadline is Monday 12 noon. Letters will be prioritized in the order received. Only one submission from the same person will be printed per week. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Letters will not be edited for spelling or grammar. Announcements will be directed to billboards. Letters can be mailed to Box 3035, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., V8W-3P3, dropped off at S.U.B Room, or E-mailed to martlet@sol.uvic.ca.

Chastity Promoted

Editors,

When Gerald Walton and his friends scoff at the sacred principle of chastity I weep in the spirit just a little. Nevertheless, I am encouraged that he would circulate my letter among many people because perhaps someone will be called unto repentance.

When have I implied that sexual expression must be evil? Sexual expression is a moral choice. Chastity sustains a righteous life leading to greater physical and spiritual fulfillment; those forsaking that sacred principle deny themselves some portion of their divine potential..

And while it is quite correct that we must ponder our own sexuality, we must also acknowledge the immutable laws governing sexual expression that we must obey or risk serious consequences. It affects me personally when people mislead about their sexuality damage themselves physically and spiritually because we all succor them in their afflictions through social programs. Therefore, it is responsible to promote chastity throughout society.

Gerald Walton must presume his friends are the first to declare themselves too sophisicated to obey the sacred principle of chastity; to the contrary, their rebellion is as old as humanity itself. Isn't it pitiful they can't dismiss the consequences of moral depravity so casually.

A. Idler

Bring Lesbians Back

Editors;

Could you please ask the lesbians to come back to *The Martlet*? At least they could write.

Sincerely,

Robyn (now tearfully engrossed in a copy of *The Emily*) Blaber.

"I'm Still Laughing"

I applaud Gerald Walton's articulate response to A. Idler obviously servious concerns on a subject that is part of human sexuality. I would advise A. Idler to "keep a hands off approach" if so desired, an experiment if he hasn't already. With all the serious social issues facing our society today, its sad that someone whould freak out over such trivia.

David Nash

Tools of Oppression

Editors,

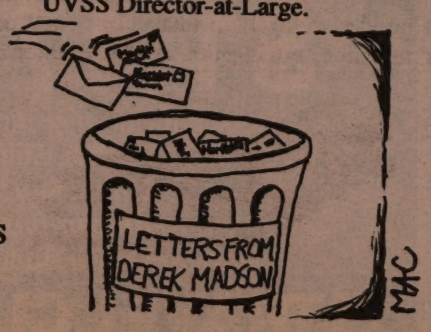
As a member of the UVSS Board-of-Directors I am deeply concerned about the level of public harassment and reprisal that has been directed against Kathleen Westergaard.

There is clearly an attempt to silence her criticism of Women's Studies through intimidation, coercion, ostracism, and open hostility. Those who engage in such activities themselves perpetuate the further oppression of women through the use of these familiar tools of patriarchal domination. As Audre Lourde eloquently illustrated.. "***the Masters' Tool will never dismantle the Masters' House***".

ANY student has the right to approach the UVic Anti-Harassment Office if s/he feels harassed by a member of the UVic Administration. Kathleen's case is particularly sensitive because of the sexual nature of the complaint. Proclaiming that she "could have said no" merely blames the victim, and ignores the clear power dynamic that exists within the classroom environment. Those who would lash-out in a reactionary attempt to silence Kathleen should examine the implications of their actions for other women on campus — women facing similar forms of harassment, but who are silenced for fear of public reprisals they see directed at Kathleen and other women with the courage to speak-out against harassment.

Derek Madson

UVSS Director-at-Large.



The Martlet

Quote of the month:

"Life isn't free."

Don Rowlatt
Uvic Vice President
Finance and Operations

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Miko Nico Roes (in absentia)

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UVic to charge for Internet access

by Richard Carlson

The University of Victoria is finally giving universal student access to the information highway in September — but they will be charging a toll.

Students will be able to call up and "surf the Internet or hook up to any computers on campus such as the library," said Paul Molyski, Manager of Network Services. Students will get access simply by answering some questions on-line. No decision has been made on when students will receive access to e-mail.

To deal with the increased demand, Computing Services will be buying more telephone lines and equipment.

Students will be able to call up and surf the Internet

Students will bear the costs of the expanded system. According to Molyski, every student will be given fifteen minutes of free time every day. Every minute after that will cost one and a half cents, totaling ninety cents an hour. Funds have to be prepaid to either Accounting Services or Computing Services.

"There was a desire for universal access and only the big user will be charged a lot of money," says Vice-President Finance and Operations Don Rowlatt. "It would be nice not to have a charge for everything but it is quite expensive."

Gary Timuss, President of the Computer Science Course Union (CSCU) is not very happy with the new costs. He believes the charges will make it difficult for students to complete their course work.

Previously computer science students connected to the university computer through a modem for free, allowing them to do their work at home.

According to Timuss, the average undergraduate computer science student would have to pay $400 a term just to be able to do work which can only be done on university computers.

"It is like charging someone a penny and a half a minute for being in the library," said Timuss.

As a result, the CSCU and the Engineering Students' Society formed the Joint Alternative Connectivity Proposal Committee to come up with a plan to get around the new costs.

The Faculty of Engineering unanimously passed the students' proposal to set up their own dial-in service. The faculty also agreed to loan them the start up costs.

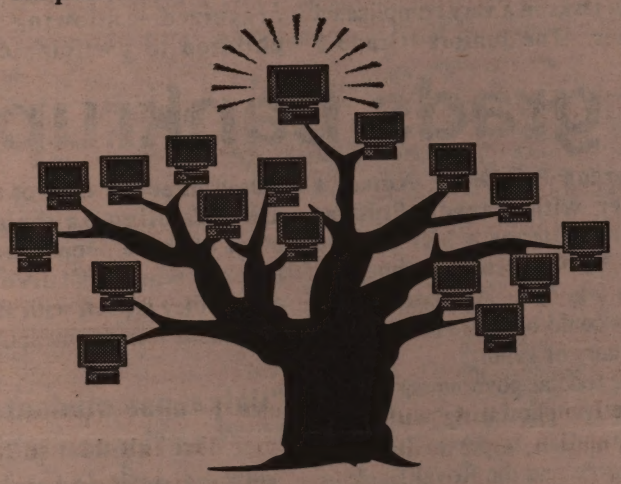
Engineering students will be charged sixty cents an hour during the day, and thirty cents an hour during off-peak hours. All the money raised will go back into running the lines and paying off the loan.

Traditionally, computer sciences students have been the largest users of Computing Services. Without them using the new lines, costs may have to increase because there will be less users to pay for the system. Molyski admits prices may have to be adjusted according to the number of users on the new service.

"It is like charging someone a penny and a half a minute for being in the library"

The UVic Students' Society directors are also upset with the new plan. Ana Torres, Director of Academics, said,"the fact that UVic students don't have free access to Internet and e-mail is indicative to the low priority the university gives to students' education."

Rowlatt disagrees. "life isn't free," he said.❑



Caravan arrives on schedule

by Gefen Bar-On

After receiving serious warnings from American police, the 170 Canadians and Americans crossing the border from Buffalo, New York, to Canada last June were surprised to encounter smiling policemen wishing them good luck on their trip.

"They said they didn't want anyone to get hurt" says Ruth Miranda of Victoria, the head of the Caravan from Canada, "but my feeling is deep inside they knew we were right and supported us."

The caravan left Victoria on June 10 with three hundred tons of school and medical aid to Cuba. It traveled across Canada to collect goods from various supporting groups. After reaching Toronto, the 35 Canadians crossed the border to Buffalo and joined with a hundred and thirty five Americans. Once united, the group recrossed the Canadian border to ship the goods. The return to Canada was necessary because the three decade long United States embargo doesn't allow any shipment of goods directly to Cuba.

The group continued to Ottawa and then to Montreal, where support demonstrations were held. From Montreal the goods, clearly marked as aid to Cuba were shipped and the group members flew there.

"It was interesting to note" says Miranda , originally from Chile, "that most of the people on our group were not of Latin American origin. Actually, some of the Americans on the group were ex- military people who saw and understood the wrong their country did to other weaker countries."

In Havana, group members were hosted by I.C.A.P, an organization handling international support to Cuba. During their stay, they experienced the Cuban effort to normalize life despite the difficult political and economic situation.

"I never saw a society so colour blind"

The group visited a hospital working to overcome the shortage in medicines by using natural medicines and methods. They also visited a co-op agricultural boarding school in the country, where poor students are trained and provided with protection and suitable life conditions.

Miranda summarizes her first visit to Cuba as an overwhelming experience, both emotionally and educationally. Instead of a land of dictatorship and suffering, as the western stereotype suggests, she found a society filled with warmth, dignity and hope. In Cuba material goods are scarce and people share them naturally. For instance, during the visit to the co-op agricultural school one of the members of the caravan group gave a sandwich to a 9 year old student. The boy instinctively cut the sandwich into many small pieces and distributed them among his friends.

Many Cubans who work as public guardians in the nightly street watch also volunteer to do gardening so that residents can enjoy more vegetables.

The hardship of life in Cuban society, according to Miranda, made it a feminist and equal one. Women do the same jobs and earn the same amount of money as men do. Women who finish their work after nightfall feel no fear to walk alone in the dark streets

"I never saw a society so colour blind" remarked one of the caravan members after talking to Cuban women."

Miranda returned from her trip filled with strength and enthusiasm. "There is nothing wrong with the way Cubans live," she says. "They just want to be left alone. I was very sad to leave this land of family and warmth. I will come there again to help and to learn."

The next Caravan to Cuba will leave Victoria in July 1996. Ruth Miranda will certainly be there, and perhaps, she says, one of her three children.❑

STUDENT VOICE

RX. for All: Caveat Emptor at the Pharmacy

Flailing ineffectually in an effort to get comfortable, I recently awoke to a vicious throbbing from surgery the day before. These spasms were so potent, that anti-inflammatory meds and a hot water bottle had failed to take the edge off: a tidal wave of pain with the Richter scale equivalent of about 8.3 had me in its crush when I resolved to take refuge in one of the Leritines issued as back-up. The prescription for anileridine hydrochloride (its generic name) had been filled at a Victoria outlet of a national chain of drugstores earlier in the week.

The stapled bag with the container of promised relief was retrieved from the bedside table. I couldn't remember how many of these 'never mind take the edge off, 25 milligrams and you're numb' chemical wonders had been allotted, so I emptied all of the precious pellets into my left palm and counted. Nine. Doctors usually order only very small quantities for their patients as the drug has a high addiction potential. Still, this seemed like an odd (pun intended) number to prescribe and I donned spectacles to scrutinize the label: "10" with "0 repeats", printed clearly enough.

A subsequent phone call to the dispensing pharmacy registered my complaint. "Oh, just a counting error," was the glib and only mildly apologetic response. "Come back in and we'll give you the extra one."

"Just a counting error? Extra one?" Call me an alarmist, but what business does a pharmacist who cannot correctly tally the number of digits on both hands have in doling out drugs? Should the unsuspecting public come to accept - or even expect - miscounts in the magnitude of ten percent? Had my particular script for a narcotic analgesic induced a temporary, arithmetic inability in the druggist? What other kinds of screw-ups occur, and with what frequency?

I believe that the majority of pharmacists are scrupulously ethical and entirely reliable. I'll even allow that the dispensing "error" in my case was accidental rather than deliberate.

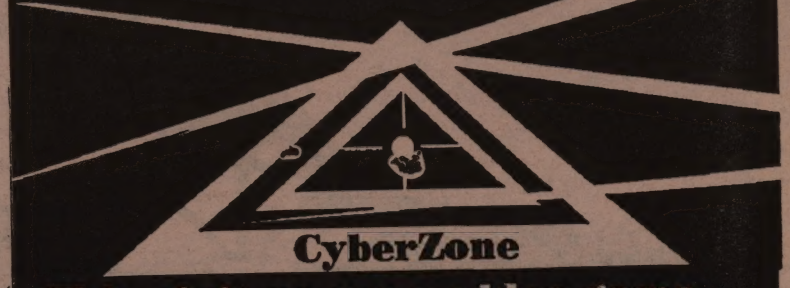
The take-home message for this consumer is simply that all medications (including over-the-counter drugs) that you are taking; does your medical history, lifestyle and/or present physical condition require special precautions; and what do you do if a dose has been missed?

Pharmacists are usually quite helpful to clients. If s/he is too busy to respond immediately, ask to see the *Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties*. This thick, blue, soft-covered 'drug Bible' is available for reference at virtually all pharmacy counters in Canada and I have yet to hear of anyone who has been denied access to it. Though its information is somewhat technical, it can serve as a guide to queries later put to the druggist or prescribing physician.❑

Anita M. Goldring

The Student Voice is an opinion pice written by UVic students. Following Martlet policy sexist, racist, and homophobic material will not be printed. Length is dictated by the space permitted in the column.

The future has arrived in Victoria!



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NEWS

Science Venture succeeds with children

by Craig Lloyd

Should the headlines read, 'Campus invaded by vertically and chronologically challenged individuals' - don't be concerned, it's only Science Venture, not an alien take-over.

Science Venture, running on campus from July 3 to August 25, is a science camp aimed at youngsters in grades 5 through 8. UVic students will be hosting and organizing seven one-week sessions of the camp. Science Venture is a non-profit organization, and a subsidiary organization of the UVic Engineering Students' Society.

One of the main objectives of Science Venture is to develop an enthusiasm and interest in science, engineering, and technology in the young participants. This is accomplished by a hands-on approach, having the children participate actively, instead of using passive learning. One of the Philosophies of Science Venture is:

"I hear, and I forget...
I see, and I remember...
I do, and I understand..."

The projects that are done are educational, challenging, and a lot of fun. These projects are taken from various scientific disciplines, including engineering, chemistry, and biology.

An example of an engineering project is the ping pong launch.

Participants are required to create a device to move ping-pong balls from a starting point to a bucket about three feet away. Also included in this project is the requirement to 'buy' the required building materials, using science venture dollars.

"I hear, and I forget .... I see, and I remember .... I do, and I understand ...."

Another engineering project is to launch an egg down a ramp towards a brick, and have the egg touch the brick, without having the egg break.

There are also basic chemistry experiments which are performed. One experiment is to discover the identity of an unknown substance. A flow chart is followed to find out what the mystery compound is.

Another experiment performed is to get the campers to make their own toothpaste, and compare it with commercial toothpaste. Another favourite is making natural tie-dyes using various fruits and berries. The materials used can be found in local grocery stores.

There are various 'games' that deal with basic biological principles, such as natural selection and survival. One particular favourite is called 'the Thicket game' This is an adaptation of Hide and Seek.

One child is selected to be the predator, and the rest, the prey. The predator closes, his/her eyes, and the prey hide. The prey must be able to see the predator. When the predator opens its eyes, any prey it can see is captured, and they become predators for the next round. This demonstrates the concept and the importance of camouflage.

The most popular project for the week is the construction of Goldberg machines. These devices are built to perform very simple tasks in a very complicated manner. The Juniors (Grade 5 and 6 students) must blow out a candle, and the intermediate students (Grade 7 and 8) try to launch a water balloon.

Instructor Pam Guy has "so much fun working at this program," she says. "The kids are so creative, so enthusiastic." She says the "kids have a willingness to try things, [the instructors] want kids to check it out and have a good time."

Part of the purpose of the camp is to "encourage a lot of curiosity", and to work on such skills as problem solving and team work.

"kids have a willingness to try things"

The first science venture was organized in 1991, molded after a similar program at Queens University called Science Quest. That year, the 140 spots filled up very quickly. In 1992, the camp doubled in size.

In 1993 the camp could not expand, so workshops at elementary schools were organized, allowing 2,100 children to participate in the program.

Last year a Science Venture road trip was organized, visiting four interior colleges. The road trip could not be repeated this year due to a debt from the previous year.

There are about 350 participants booked for this year's program. The ratio of participants last year was 58% male and 42% female, and looks about the same this year. For each session of the camp, 40% of the spaces are reserved of each sex to encourage equal participation.

In order to participate in a Science Venture camp, each camper must pay a $105 registration fee. Over and above this registration fee, Science Venture must raise $55,000 to cover their costs. This is provided mainly from government and private industry sources, as well as UVic, the host institution.

The responses from both the participants and their parents are overwhelming positive. According to this year's director Jennifer Halfhide, "All programs have been successful and well supported, and everybody is happy with the program."❑

Government to deny grads bankruptcy options

by Carey Frey, *The Carillon*, University of Regina

REGINA (CUP)

The federal government is planning to make it harder for anyone with an outstanding student loan to declare bankruptcy.

A proposal, recently sent to the cabinet for final approval, would amend the Bankruptcy and Solvency Act so debtors who couldn't pay their student loans would not be eligible to declare bankruptcy for a period of 5-10 years after finishing school.

The federal government claims to have lost $61.3 million dollars in defaulted student loans last year alone. In response they have put forward a proposal similar to legislation that currently exists in the United States.

In the United States. student loan debt is exempt from bankruptcy discharge for five years after a student leaves school.

"You can't draw blood from a stone," said Erica Ellson, a Student Advocate at the University of Regina Students' Union. "The people who can't afford to pay their loans now will just end up owing more. It won't solve anything."

Ellson, a professional social worker, declared bankruptcy in 1993 after she couldn't make the minimum payments on her loan. She believes the proposed changes will only hurt poor students and is part of a trend that threatens to destroy universality in post-secondary education.

"You can't draw blood from a stone"

"In the future, only those students who can finance their education independently will be able to attend university. That's been evident in every single policy that the Liberal government has put out."

Coreen Prince-St. Amad, a lawyer with Canada Student Loans, believes a bill will be ready for first reading sometime in the late fall. Amendments to the act could be approved as early as January of 1996.

The federal government is also currently negotiating with both the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Royal Bank to finance the Canada Student Loan Program. The government must loan money to any qualified student regardless of risk. Although banks may agree to finance student loans, the government will still have to secure repayment.

Documents obtained from the working group drafting the bankruptcy act amendments explain that the government is trying to curtail students from declaring bankruptcy because any losses form loan defaults will come from the governments coffers and not the banks."

"It's prejudicial," Ellson said, "Only three per cent of students are defaulting on their loans. Most of those people are single parents who can't live on the money they are left with after they make their loan payments."

"Only those students who can finance their education independently will be able to attend university"

Jocelyn Charron, a government liaison with the Canadian Federation of Students, believes the government is looking for ways to reduce student debt loads but is restricted by its economic policies.

"The Finance Department had its way with social programs for this year's budget and as a result universities may be forced to double tuition to compensate for the cuts."

"Now officials with the student loan program are trying to cope with the consequences. The fact that the situation that students are now facing was created by part of the government is ironic but they have to go along with what the cabinet decides."

According to Charron, new recommendations to reform student loans have been proposed by the human resources development committee (HRDC.) They include a debt relief plan for students that would make more funds available to women and visible minorities, and would include new interest relief measures.

Ellson states the government still isn't reducing student-loan bankruptcies for the students' sake.

"For a family that has children, the payments on two student loans are impossible to pay. Think of what this proposal will to do those people if they have to live for 5-10 years under that burden."

The amendments to the bankruptcy act also include a clause for hardship cases, allow ing the courts to discharge a student loan under special circumstances.

The HRDC admits this would introduce a degree of uncertainty for judges and creditors, and may lead to broad interpretations of hardship.

Under one proposal, courts would be allowed to make the discharge of a student loan on the condition that a portion of the loan would still have to be repaid.

Ellson was granted a precedent-setting conditional discharge on her loan.

"It isn't an absolute discharge from bankruptcy. I still owed $7500 and I couldn't get any credit. Students would still be under that burden until all the money they owe is paid back," said Ellson.❑

BILLBOARDS

Thursday, July 20

Cinecenta - *Before the Rain.* 7:00 & 9:20.

Friday, July 21

Cinecenta - *While You Were Sleeping.* 7:15 & 9:20.

Saturday, July 22

Cinecenta - *While You Were Sleeping.* 7:15 & 9:20.

Sunday, July 23

Cinecenta - *The Cure.* 7:00 & 9:00.

Monday, July 24

Cinecenta - *Once Were Warriors.* 7:15 & 9:20.

Tuesday, July 25

Cinecenta - *Francois Truffaut: Stolen Portraits.* 7:15 & 9:10.

Wednesday July 26

Cinecenta - *When Night is Falling.* 7:15 & 9:15.

SUMMER EVENTS

Festival - The 1995 Victoria Shakespeare Festival will be held until July 30. Tickets are $12 (adults), $10 students & seniors at the MacPherson Box Office. For more specific info, call Susan Kerschbaumer @ 388 - 7029.

Performance - UVic Women's Centre & Blind Date Productions present **The Wyrd Sisters.** Thursday, July 20 @ 7:30 pm at the Philip T. Young Recital Hall. Tickets $13, available at Everywoman's Books. Sliding scale tickets also available.

3 Commemorative Events mark the 50th Anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki. A photography exhibit of Hiroshima & Nagasaki will be on display Aug. 5 & 6 @ Hillside Mall. There will be a Candlelight Vigil on Aug. 9 w/. music and speakers at 8pm at Model Yacht Pond (Dallas & Government). For info call 595-7955.

Summer Pleasures - The Victoria International Festival presents "Concerti Extravaganza" - July 25, Aug. 01, 08, & 15 @ 8pm. Tickets $25/$20/$15. More info is available at the University Centre box office.

Music Festival - World Spirit Music Festival celebrating world beats & global harmonies. Spirit of the West, Loose, Kumbia, Jambo Salama, babe gurr and many others. Aug. 19 & 20 @ Providence Farm, Duncan.$30 in advance, $50 at the gate (includes camping). Info: (604) 920-5560.

Services & Things

For Sale - Super-rockin' Panasonic Word Processor. Battery pack, spell check, thesaurus & other swank features. **Not computer compatible.** $399 OBO. 384-BLOB.

Psssssssssssst...

the green snake lady sank into the silver subway seat. she couldn't get over her desire to sink her teeth into something succinct. spiders just wouldn't do this time.

LUUUUUUUUUUUUCCYYYYYY!!!!!!!

happy 'b' day liiiiiiiiiiiiiiisssssssssaaaa'! may yer day be filled with skulls & snakes and puppy dog tails. chanxoxo

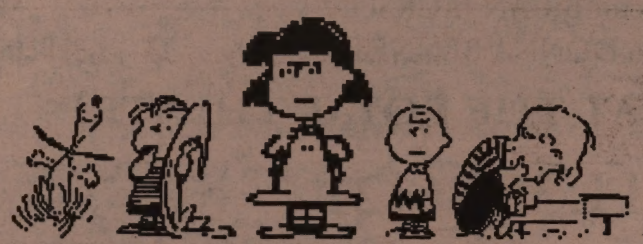
my sweet pickle jar, let's go campin'.

Another day, another door. I've kinda got to likin' em slammin' in my face.

the heat wave left Keanu parched and disoriented.. He sank to his knees in the gravel, then keeled over completely. All appeared to be lost...but wait! Was that a white wine and lemonade spritzer in a blue plastic patio glass?

K.P. and M.T.- The more pitchers we drink the better off we'll be. Same time, next week? XOX graceland goddess.

fargo-my darling-chan, i wish you a rockin' fine 'b' day.♥ yer chan- momma



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Climate Control at UBC

by Chris Nuttall-Smith,
The Ubyssey, UBC

VANCOUVER (CUP)

The University of British Columbia will suspend admission to its post-graduate program in political science following a report that claims the department is rife with racism and sexism.

The report, which was released June 21, was commissioned by the university and written by independent investigator Joan McEwan. She found "a genuine basis" for systemic and pervasive racism and sexism in the university's political science department.

While McEwan did not name any specific complainants or faculty accused of racism and sexism, she did provide examples of several incidents.

Allegations cited in the report range from a white male professor telling a Jewish female professor that feminism is a "Jewish-American-Princess conspiracy," to professors making explicit sexual advances towards female graduate students.

The department also used inaccurate or incomplete statistics "to refute those allegations" and "failed to listen to what the students were saying," McEwen wrote.

At a press conference following the report's release, UBC President David Strangway announced that the university will implement all seven recommendations included in the document.

At the top of the list, Strangway announced the suspension of admissions to the graduate program in political science.

The department will not admit new students "until there are satisfactory provisions in place relating to educational equity and a learning and working environment which is free from harassment and discrimination," Strangway said.

Although Strangway will follow the report's recommendations, he stopped shy of promising any action above and beyond the recommendations. He said that he would not reprimand any faculty or staff, nor would he speak with the department.

Since its release, the report has been the subject of heated debate.

John Furedy, president of the Toronto based Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship, attacked the report in an open letter to Strangway.

Furedy wrote; "...this an inquisitorial report which contains vaguely stated and unproven allegations of racism and sexism, names no specific individuals, and permits of no defense by the accused collectivity."

But representatives for students who allege the harassment say that not enough is being done to remedy the systemic problems detailed by McEwen.

"It's my understanding that racist or sexist behavior is against the law in this province and therefore, one would think that an employer who's concerned about meeting his or her obligation under the law would take steps to discipline their employees," said Anita Braha, a lawyer for UBC's Graduate Students' Society, which represented the complainants.

Students are also frustrated by the university administration's reasoning in refusing to discipline any faculty member. Strangway said the university would not take such action because it was not specifically recommended in McEwen's report.

Robin Cox of the Alliance of Feminists Across Campuses warned: "We have no intention of allowing the university not to follow through with these recommendations."

Braha was more severe. "I think it's clear that there are some members of the administration and the department who are implicated in Ms. McEwan's report. It seems to me prudent that at least those individuals in particular reassess their usefulness to the university."

The report criticized political science department head Don Blake. McEwan wrote that he dismissed complaints made about the department as early as 1992 and "prejudged the merits of the dispute in favour of the faculty." Blake has been on sabbatical since July 1.❑

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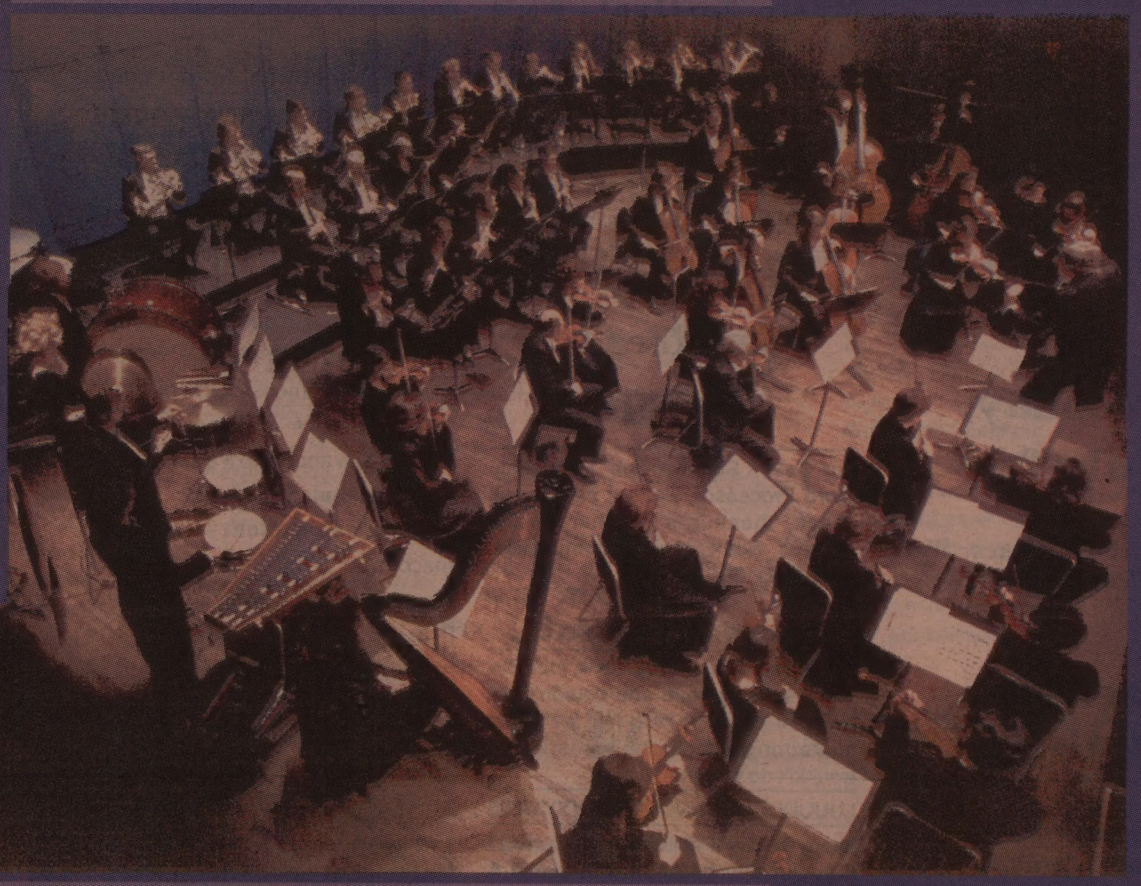
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